

Ø Beat

Vol. 50

February 2000

No. 2

There's restructured ham licenses, a proposed bill to cancel out mobile operations in CO, new hams due in March from the ham class, the Universal Licensing System that we all need to learn, APRS use for WX, a new ARES EC in the wings, a new frequency coordinator, a changing Ø-Beat, and so much more. Catch up on the latest in this issue!

License Restructuring: Good or Bad?

Probably the biggest news this year is the FCC's recent revelation in the licensing structure. It's about as close as you can get to an automatic upgrade for some. If you put yourself in the right state, some of you can earn a complimentary upgrade come April 15. Better than a tax refund, right? Better yet, use your tax refund to buy a radio that lets you use your new privileges, assuming you upgrade. The restructuring becomes reality on April 15. There'll be only three classes (Technician, General, Extra) instead of six, and testing will be simplified (one 5wpm code test aka Element 1, and three written elements aka Elements 2, 3, 4). The question pool committee is revising the tests, and hopes to have new questions ready by Feb 1.

There is a new effort, though, to ask the FCC to reconsider their decision in hopes of reversing what some believe to be a major mistake in terms of "dumbing down" the amateur ranks. Basically a group of people are asking the FCC to



reconsider their ruling. Not sure how successful the request will be. As Wes Wilson KØHBZ so clearly points out in this month's *Communicator*, to earn an Amateur Extra class license now, you need to pass eight elements totaling 30 CW questions and 180 multiple choice questions. After April 15, to earn an Extra Class will require only four elements, with 10 CW questions and 120 multiple choice questions. 210 questions vs 130!/? You Advanced class holders will have passed 20 CW questions and 140 multiple choice questions. That's more than what will be required for the new Extra, and you still have less spectrum to use! It seems doubtful that the new question pools will make up for this difference. Some people wonder whether we should go back to the days before question pools and multiple choice questions.

So what'll happen to your license? First of all, if you do nothing to change your license, you neither gain nor lose privileges. The only other possibility is to upgrade, and potentially gain much more. If you hold a Novice, Tech Plus or Advanced, you can retain that class indefinitely, with no loss or gain of privileges. After April 15, if you're a Novice and you pass Element 2, you'll earn General. If you're a Technician (issued prior to 3/21/87) you will qualify for General, but you'll need to complete the Form 605. Other Tech's can pass Elements 1 and 3 and earn General. Tech Plus's can pass Element 3 and earn General. Generals and Advanced can pass Element 4 and earn Amateur Extra. Should you do anything prior to April 15? Depends. If you're Tech Plus now, it may be to your advantage to take the written General now. Currently Element 3B is 30 questions; the new Element 3 will be 35 questions. If you're Advanced now, you can take the current Element 4B (40 questions) now rather than the new Element 4 (50 questions) later. CSCE holders will get credit for CSCEs issued 4/17/99 or later. An Advanced class licensee with a CSCE dated 6/1/99 for Element 4B, for example, will qualify for Extra. He just needs to file a Form 605 with a VE team. There are plenty of other upgrade possibilities. Contact any VE if you have questions.

Meetings Our monthly meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 N. Circle Drive, about 1/2 way between Platte Ave and Constitution Ave on N. Circle. Our Annual meeting is in October.

License Exams PPRAA ARRL VE test sessions on the 2nd Saturday of even numbered months at 9 am at the Denver Technical College, 3245 International Dr, across from Memorial Park. Contact Erik KGØXE for details.

Examinees need to bring (1) \$6.65 (Eff. Jan 1, 2000), preferably a check or money order payable to ARRL/VEC (Elements 1 and 2A are free.); (2) picture ID; (3) the signed original and a copy of your current amateur radio license and CSCs you have (we keep the copies); and (4) a pen, pencil, and calculator if needed. Memory calculators will be checked.

PPRAA Web Page See it at <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa/>. Thanks to Jeff Boyes NØJLH, our webmaster.

Get on the PPRAA E-mail Reflector Stay on top of new or short-fused developments. Send e-mail to majordomo@qth.net; within the body type "subscribe ppraanet".

PPRAA Simplex Net All amateurs are invited to join us on Thursday evenings at 7 pm on 146.58 MHz simplex for our club net. Get the latest club and regional happenings!

Officers and Directors

*President	Mike Anderson	WV7T	634-7168	wv7t@aol.com
Vice-President	Sid White	K4ARM	495-4147	sidwhite@worldnet.att.net
Secretary	Rhoda Anderson	KB2BZY	634-7168	wv7t@aol.com
Treasurer	Rob Roller	N7LV	282-0204	n7lv@amsat.org
*Board Member	Moe Pierce	WBØRTF	550-0406	wb0rtf@amsat.org
*Board Member	Paula Gainer	KCØAGG	391-2567	pgainer@earthlink.net
Board Member	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
*Board Member	Roger French	KBØRLF	598-9570	clutch_service@msn.com
Ø Beat Editor	Rob Roller	N7LV	282-0204	n7lv@amsat.org

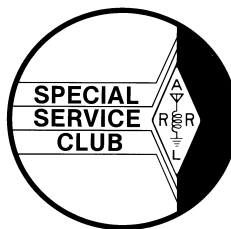
*This Officer/Director is completing the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected.

Committee Chairpersons/Contacts

Activity	(vacant -- volunteer desperately needed)			
Auditing	Jerry Allen	NØGCA	264-1278	jerall@msn.com
Asset	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	k0ter@arrl.net
Historian	Jody Borst	KAØROZ	634-3995	kc0nc@worldnet.att.net
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	532-1439	william.petty@lsil.com
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995	kc0nc@worldnet.att.net
Programs	Rick Brown	KØSU	531-9423	k0su@arrl.net
Publicity	(vacant -- volunteer desperately needed)			
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	k0ter@arrl.net
Swapfest 2000	Bob "Rails" Ryals	KIØGF	265-9950	rryals@pcisys.net
Technical Education	Linda Hedges	KBØRKW	683-7828	kb0rkw@juno.com
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE	596-5345	erik@teuton.org
Ø Beat Editor	Rob Roller	N7LV	282-0204	n7lv@amsat.org
ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290	k0ter@arrl.net
CCARC Liaison	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352	deutschra@aol.com
RACES Officer	John Roberts	KBØVGX	575-8400	kb0vgx@worldnet.att.net

Upcoming Club Programs

February..... Skee Hipszky NØPRY talks on winter survival. A must for ARES/RACES!
 March Old Timer's Night. We'd like to meet some long-time members. All should bring some old gear. Contact Rosie WAØMNL if you want to participate.



Articles for the Zero Beat

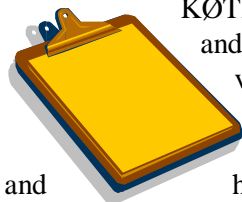
Deadline for articles or ads is the 20th of the month. Submit articles by e-mail, by U.S. Mail to the club's address, or in person to the Editor. Editor reserves right to correct for readability, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and length.

Nonprofit Organization The PPRAA is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions/donations may be tax-deductible.

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General Meeting Minutes

The January 12th, 2000 meeting of the PPRAA was called to order by club president Mike Anderson, WV7T, at 7pm. Mike welcomed everyone and the membership introduced themselves. Several club members had license upgrades. Mike gave a well done to Jeff Boyes and his wife on the timely mailing on the *Ø-Beat*. Jeff mentioned about the optional e-mail *Ø-Beat* in the works. Moe WBØRTF asked about a braille version. Rosie stated the club's Worked All States board was complete and certificates for QSL contributors would be forthcoming. No committee reports, no old business, or new business. Mike stated that ARRL is offering a special DXCC certificate for year 2000, with no QSLs required. Marcia, KCØFII, gave a report on annual Scout Freezoree being held 5 February at the Air Force Academy. She said that over night permission had been granted with no antenna height restrictions. Mike



and

KØTER, Wes KØHBZ, Ted NØNKG, and Jeff NØWPA had previously volunteered to assist. There was discussion on frequency coordination, additional volunteers, hams not attending should

communicate with the Freezoree stations and speak to the Scouts. Dan KBØPPM stated as many as 2000 scouts could be in attendance. Robert KIØGF gave a update on swapfest preparations. Swapfest meetings are the first Saturday of each month at the Falcon Police Station (north end of Academy near I-25). An open invitation was made to club members to attend/participate. Robert asked for membership approval for the monies to purchase the swapfest prizes, a Yaesu FT-100 (\$1085), Yaesu VX-1R handheld transceiver (\$156), and a \$100 bill, total including tax around \$1400. A motion to approve the monies to purchase the swapfest prizes was made by Jeff NØWPA and seconded by Bob NØBOB. Motion was carried by majority vote of attending club membership. Rob N7LV stated the raffle license had not arrived yet. Aaron KD6FLM gave a report on plans for the next ham radio exhibit. He is exploring the options of having portable ham stations at various fire stations instead of at the east library. Linda KBØRKW gave a report on Frank McNally's KFØWF Technician License course. She asked if club members would support the class by visiting on a class night. 35 student were present the first night and special attention was paid ensuring students found the parking area. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7-9pm at the Office of Emergency Management at 305 South Union. Mike WV7T put out a

request for one-night class instructors to share their favorite parts of ham radio with new hams. Many people had expressed an interest in classes that expand on ham activities and how-to-do projects. Mike said that facilities are available with a writing board, TV, and VCR. Mike also stated that several club service positions are open for volunteers, Training Coordinator, Publicity, and Membership chairpersons, and a code class assistant. Contact Mike for details. Aki ABØIH and his family are returning to Japan the end of January. On behalf of the club Mike WV7T presented a very nice certificate and PPRAA club patch to Aki. He will be greatly missed. Mike also presented certificates to hams having

communicated with the November 11th Veteran's Day Special Event Station. The HAMMY for year 1999 went to Aki Matsuda ABØIH. It was a terrific surprise for Aki and will make a great conversation piece in Japan. Paula KCØAGG



presented the January 2000 HAMMY to Bill Pierce KDØJU along with a newly designed HAMMY 2000 certificate. Rick KØSU talked about the new FCC ham license restructuring and the April 15 effective date. Regarding programs, February's program will be Winter Survival and in March a Old Timer's Night. (I wonder what constitutes an "old timer"?) Rosie asked for a membership response as to why attendance at the club picnic in 1999 was so low. She and several others noted that many other activities were in progress the same day and that a date with no conflicts would be better to assure a grand turnout in the future. Rick KØSU proceeded with the night's program by allowing each entrant to describe their Homebrew project. The judging was made by the club members and here are the results: **AMATEUR CATEGORY:** 1st place **NKØP**, 2nd place **KCØNC**, 3rd place **KCØGLO**. **PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY:** 1st place **WA2OOD**, 2nd place **KD6FLM**, 3rd place **KØSU**. Winner of the **UGLY CATEGORY** was **KBØUWN**. Meeting adjourned at 9pm. Submitted by Rhoda Anderson, KB2BZY, Secretary.

Board Meeting Minutes

[Note: The Feb board meeting is on Feb 13th at 2 pm at Roger KBØRLF's QTH. This is NOT the normal day; the normal day is the Monday following the club meeting at 7 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.]

Meeting called to order by Mike WV7T at the home of Paula KCØAGG. Present: Mike WV7T, Rob N7LV, Rhoda KB2BZY, Paula KCØAGG, Moe WBØRTF, Rick KØSU and Jeff NØJLH. Board members absent were Sid White K4ARM (proxy held by Bill KDØJU), Roger KBØRLF (proxy held by Curtis KB2ZVX). Visitors: Renay KAØROY and Cassie Boyes. Mike WV7T brought the previous month's board minutes to the floor for discussion and/or correction. A motion to approve the minutes as published in *Ø-Beat* was made by Jeff NØJLH and seconded by Moe WBØRTF. Motion was passed. Mike gave his agenda items to the board. 1) Fund raising ideas. Coffee cups with club name and logo, T-Shirts, club jackets, and key chains. Rhoda KB2BZY said she saw a cup "Cream of Volunteer" and it would make a nice item to offer club members. Mike is being placed on an exercise program and he would like to see if club members would sponsor him for each mile he ran, walked, or biked. All the proceeds would be donated to the club (Mike said it would be motivation for him). Mike WV7T and Sid K4ARM looking into local source for cups. 2) Petitions regarding the FCC's restructuring and that numerous groups had responded to the FCC for reconsideration. 3) The Colorado House Bill 00-1156 stating only certain services would be able to operate 2-way communication devices in their vehicles while in motion. 4) The work on *Ø-Beat* by e-mail (optional to those who wish it) was still in the works and that the Mountain Amateur Radio Club had just published its January newsletter in its website (www.qsl.net/nx0g). 5) A Hallicrafters SX-62 receiver has been donated to the club and a motion by Rick KØSU and seconded by Paula KCØAGG made this radio a prize at the March Old Timers Night meeting. Motion was approved. 6) Mike WV7T and Rob N7LV would be visiting Irving Middle School Principal Juarros to present a PPRAA Certificate of Appreciation for the use of the school for our 1999 Christmas party. 7) On January 22nd Mike WV7T, John NØQJS, and Doc WØMCT would take down antennas at Bob Nyman's (SK) home. Bill KDØJU offered to provide audio tapes to club secretary for recording club/board meetings to help with minutes preparation. Mike WV7T offered to give a printer and labels to Bill KDØJU for printing names for the swapfest tickets. Rick KØSU gave his thoughts on the new FCC ham license restructuring resulting in a good discussion about how this will effect our hobby. Mike WV7T said that experienced hams need to share their knowledge and expertise with the new hams to fill the areas that license study just will not cover well enough. Mike is working hard to coordinate instructors for weekly information classes. More focus on Elmering, operating information,

and procedures were specifically addressed. The board felt any response to the FCC's restructuring should be an individual option and not that of the club. Rob N7LV informed he had not yet received the raffle license (it arrived several days after the board meeting). Paula thanked the board for having the meeting at her house. "You are welcome, Paula!" Rick KØSU said a program on DX/antennas had been confirmed with the Pikes Peak DX Group for swapfest. Rick voiced his concern for the number of people who might show up for VE testing and that sufficient examiners and testing materials should be available for the session. Discussion on doing an extra VE session for the administrative upgrade only folks. This would increase the efficiency for actual elemental examinations. The Mountain Amateur Radio Club VE team has volunteered to help out with swapfest license testing. (Way to go, Dean and Wes). The 1x1 callsign of WØW has not been received for Freezoree but will be looked into. (Mike WV7T has since been assigned WØW for Freezoree). There was some discussion on the local Scouts having their own call for special events. Moe WBØRTF mentioned that in the month of March the club may need to secure an alternate club meeting location due to Lent. The board fully agreed. (Way to go, Moe!) Rick KØSU informed the board that the February club meeting program on "Winter Survival" was confirmed and that Skee NØPRY would give the presentation. For March an "Old Timers Night" would be the program and Rosie WAØMNL is the contact person. A nice vintage Hallicrafters receiver will be a door prize at the meeting. Jeff NØJLH gave his appreciation to the board but asked if he could pass on the *Ø-Beat* to a new editor. Rob N7LV accepted the newsletter editor job. (Jeff, thanks for all those years of fine *Ø-Beats*. You and the family will be missed at the board meetings. *Mike*) Rob will continue as club treasurer. A motion from Jeff NØJLH with a second from Bill KDØJU adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm. *Respectfully submitted, Rhoda Anderson, KB2BZY Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

\$0.00 - \$435.00 = (\$435.00) (month ending 12/31/1999)
Income - Expenses = Gain (Loss)

Things are a quiet right now, but hamfest planning is underway. We've received the raffle license, and tickets are on order. We should be selling raffle tickets early in February, and certainly at the next hamfest which should be the ARA hamfest in Adams County. The club approved the purchase of a Yaesu FT-100 multimode all-band HF/VHF/UHF transceiver as our grand prize! Nice, huh? This is the prize that the MARC had last

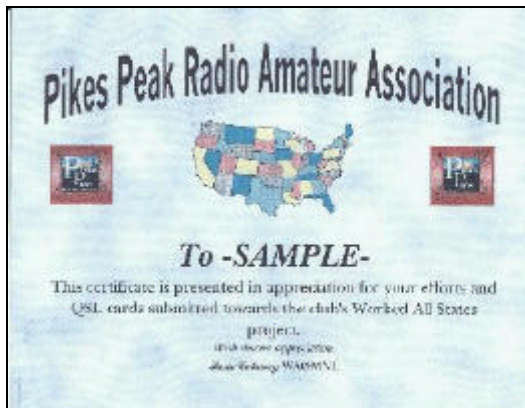
year, and it is a very nice radio. We'll need your help again this year with selling raffle tickets, especially looking for a "salesman" to help peddle tickets at the three hamfests prior to ours. Contact Bob Ryals to help with the hamfest. Only other thing is the club's liability insurance policy has been renewed for another year. That was the big expense in December. *de N7LV*

New Editor Takes the Ø-Beat Reins

Gotta give a round of applause to Jeff NØJLH and Renay KAØROY for their great efforts for five years of editorship. Thanks to both of you, as I'm sure it was a team effort with Jeff and Renay!

As with all new editors, I'll make the traditional statement that I'd like to keep the Ø-Beat going in full tradition, do great things and so on. No matter what I say, though, it really comes down to how well you and I can work together to make it happen. I'd like to see the Ø-Beat change somewhat as we move into a new century, and a new millennium. I'd like to see the Ø-Beat continue to provide timely information to you, and to see more and more technical articles. Any articles and feedback will be greatly appreciated! Remember, if you want your Ø-Beat delivered via e-mail (PDF format) please let me know. We will get that going this month. Some minor glitches in the membership data base last month kept us from getting it out. *de N7LV*

PPRAA WAS - It's History!



Last month the board was complete. Here's who helped fill it: Ron Deutsch NKØP, Dave Kurth NØUVR, Rosie Calaway WAØMNL, John Roth NØQJS, Mike Anderson WV7T, Robert Becker KCØFIH, Sid White K4ARM, Ted Allison NØUVR, Rick Brown KØSU, and Larry Lewis KØRI. In addition, contacts made by the Rocky Mountain Navy ARC using KØUSN were accepted when operators were PPRAA members. 57 cards (more than 50, some duplicates) were issued, with 32 phone and 24 CW and 1 RTTY contacts. Only one YL was worked as

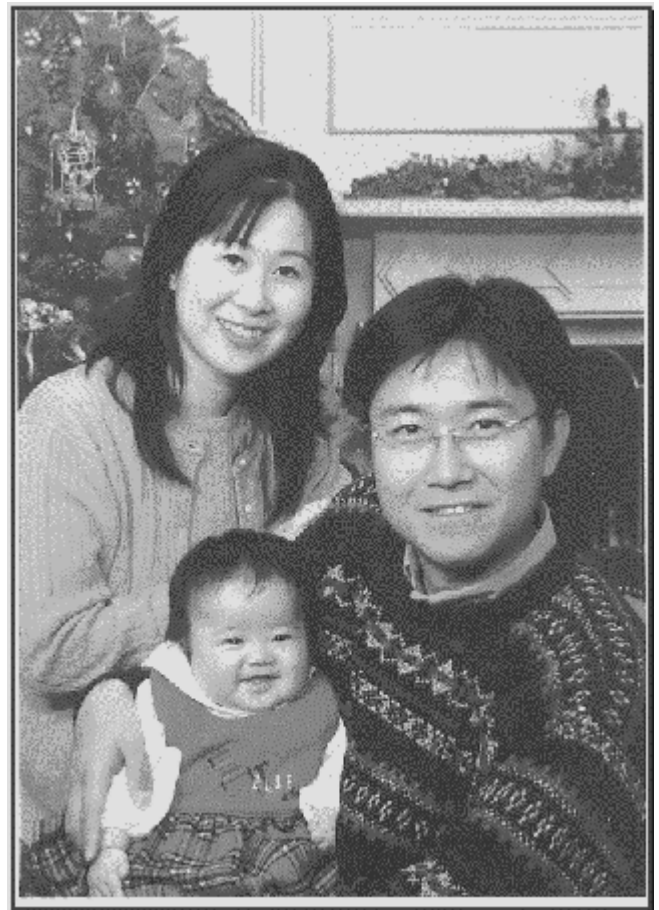
far as we can tell, on all bands 2m-160m, with AR, SD, & ND on 160m, and OR, NY, PA, KY and GA on 6m. *de WAØMNL*

Welcome New Members!

During January we had some renewals and some new members join. Please welcome Zane Wilkerson and family (no calls yet), and Emanuel Smith KCØGUH!

HOTY to Reside in JA Land

By now, Aki Matsuda ABØIH (1999 Hammy of the Year) is back in Japan, Aki and his family (wife Yukie and daughter Moeka Alyssa) have been here in COS for a few years. During that time Aki got involved in several activities.



He participated in several public service events. I'm sure he enjoyed his short stay in Colorado. To stay in touch with Aki, he'll be on e-mail until 1/31/03 at ab0ih@arrl.net. You can also work him on the air as JI3BAP. Best wishes, Aki!

Cellular Phone Abuse?

On January 7, a house bill entitled the "Cellular Phone Abuse Prevention" bill, numbered 00-1156, went to the Transportation and Energy Committee. In a nutshell, it seeks to prevent the operation of cell phones, CB radios, and other communications devices while operating a motor vehicle. There are the expected exceptions for police, fire and ambulance teams performing their duties. At first glance, this sounds serious enough to bring mobile ham ops to a screeching halt. Why, we NEED to be able to operate while driving! We communicate with the NWS, search and rescue, or the OEM during our public service activities. If you start to think about this, though, the bill as crafted is destined to fail (I hope). Think about it ... who else in Colorado operates two-way radios while driving? Taxis, bus drivers, school bus drivers, OTR truck drivers, construction vehicles, railroad maintenance teams, search and rescue, Forest Service, park officials, snow plow drivers, OEM personnel, DOT, all other branches of local and state government, and so on. You're telling me a state rep can actually exercise this kind of control? Well, if the bill passes, I guess so. It would behoove you to write to your state representative (mine is Doug Dean) and let him/her know what's up and how you feel. Don't call Rep. Clarke an ignorant person; instead tell why the bill will not work and offer suggestions on how to correct it. Even suggest eliminating it if that makes more sense. The way I see it, if you're driving carelessly while talking on a cell phone or cause an accident, you're in hot water already. So in some ways, the bill isn't necessary and they're wasting their time on it. But it's in the system, and it needs to be fixed. Write your letter today. You can find the bill on the web at http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/stateleg.html and can find your representative at <http://www.vote-smart.org/> Or call the local elections office at 520-6226. Wes Wilson KØHBZ has been invited to appear in front of the Transportation committee to express his view. We're sure Wes can make a difference.



The Universal Licensing System

With all the brouhaha going on about the licensing restructuring and the ham class going on now, you may need an intro to the ULS, or Universal Licensing System, since we all have to use it from now on. The ULS is mandatory if you ever intend to upgrade or modify your existing license. Because it's used for more than just amateur licensing, the forms are a little more complex. But you can register in the ULS in three ways: via

modem, via the web, or via US mail. Registering consists of giving the FCC your callsign, name, address, etc, and your social security number. They issue a TIN or Taxpayer ID Number. You can opt to use either number when completing a Form 605. If you're paranoid about the government getting their nose too deep in your business, use the TIN for future FCC business. It's all part of a debt collection act passed several years ago, so it's practically impossible to get away from. You can get the registration form (Form 606) from the FCC, the ARRL and hopefully the PPRAA VE team will carry some. Register by mail by sending it to the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245. Or, you can register via the WWW at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls> and follow the link to

TIN/Callsign registration. By modem, you can dial in to 800-844-2784 and use your browser in Win95/98 to register. Once you're registered you can use



Putting the Pieces Together

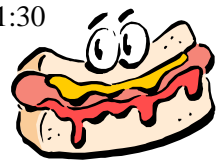
either TIN or SSN on all your 605's in order to get service from the FCC. There's a very complete Q&A file at <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/uls-qa.htm> for more details.

Ham Radio Class in Full Swing!

January 11. About 35 students crammed into the county OEM. I believe I overheard someone say this is a record attendance. There are spouses, young adults, old adults, balloon pilots, programmers. All want their ham license. Frank's got his work cut out for him. Fortunately the students all want it too, and that makes Frank's life easier. Frank KFØWF is our ARRL award-winning instructor. He gets help from KBØVGX, KØTSR, KCØAEC, KBØRKW, ABØGO, "Beautiful Barb" NØVBK, and some others. Jim Mesite KCØFIB offered a challenge to the students. Keep the numbers up! Typically he sees people drop out every week until there are only maybe 1/3 of the original number. He wants his training room stay packed. Linda KBØRKW would like to see many PPRAA members visit the class to show support. Finally, there'll be two VE sessions: one on 2/10 and the other on 3/9. Good luck to all!

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Feb 10 at 11:30 at the Home Town Buffet, Mall at the Bluffs Shopping Center, Austin Bluffs & N. Academy. Contact Ginger Hipszky NØUOD for details. Hope to see you there!



Public Service and Emergency Communications Activities

The PPRAA is an ARRL Special Services Club, but it is not an emergency services club itself. The PPRAA supports all amateur radio involvement in public service and emergency communications in any way it can, including reporting activities happening in the region. These columns are based on available knowledge, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of RACES, ARES, Skywarn or any other organization or its leadership. Logos used with permission.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service



<http://www.qsl.net/epcraces/>

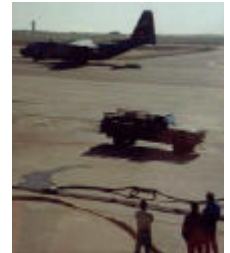
EPC RACES does hold monthly training meetings (3rd Thursdays) at the El Paso County OEM, 305 S. Union. RACES is in the process of installing a new communications center which will not only house amateur equipment but also public safety radios as well. During an activation, the OEM becomes THE place for representatives from county agencies to hang out. The new console means new operating positions, and moving the cable runs that currently run down from the roof. There's plenty of work to do. In the end it will mean a more efficient organization for the OEM. All RACES members are reminded to check their net control schedule to find out which night they are required to act as NCS. All members are cycled through the schedule, and it's up to the members to review the schedule. RACES Officer John KBØVGX is organizing a calendar of events for 2000, and will include a number of events for showing the public the value of RACES. Finally, if you're interested in getting your feet wet in emergency communications, the state EOC is looking for a state RACES officer. This position would be responsible for statewide RACES operations serving the state emergency operations center in Golden. If you believe you're qualified and are interested in serving in the position, contact John KBØVGX.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service



<http://www.qsl.net/n7lv/dist14.htm>

While PPARES generally doesn't hold regular meetings, they did have one on Jan 16. Recapping, PPARES now has signed memos of understanding with the American Red Cross, the Pikes Peak Crisis Center and the City of Palmer Lake. Permanent HF/VHF/UHF operating positions now exist in the 3-story ARC building. 228 PPARES "team members" put in over 1,800 man-hours last year during 24 missions. They'll continue to support NWS and the City OEM, among others, in the coming year. EC Warren Hickey WØYNE is stepping down to enjoy some traveling, so PPARES is looking for a new EC. Also Bob Garrett N5UOU is leaving the area and that leaves the Severe WX position vacant. Warren handed out numerous certificates of appreciation to those present for the work done in 1999.



Sid K4ARM and Wes KØHBZ operating during support of the MAFFS firefighting in May 1999, while a MAFFS C-130 taxis nearby.

President's Soapbox

Most all have heard about the new FCC amateur radio restructuring. A closer look shows fewer questions for an examinee to take on their way up the license ladder. From where will the knowledge needed to fill in the gaps in the licensing process come? It is within our own ranks -- those who have expertise coupled with years of "hands-on" experience. It is up to us to make ham radio a true pool of technical experts, to color in the picture where license study only draws the picture outline. The opportunity has been provided for a weekly classroom for the instruction of classes which will give hams the additional information they need to develop the skills and expertise to fully enjoy our hobby and be the best at serving the public. I am looking for folks who will give just one talk (or more if you like) on their most enjoyed part of amateur radio, to share what lured them to that activity, how they developed that activity, and what it means to them. One night per year for 30-40 minutes ... can anyone spare that much time to make a new ham a better ham? My time is all but accounted for as I teach 2 Morse code classes a week. I wish I had time to approach you all directly and ask you to help but that is not possible. Volunteers are needed to share what you have been so freely given. Will you call or e-mail me and give your support to the education outreach for amateur radio? My phone number is 634-7168 or e-mail wv7t@aol.com. de Mike WV7T

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!! CELLULAR PHONE BILL AMENDED, AND TABLED INDEFINITELY! NO LONGER NECESSARY TO WRITE TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE!!!

Hamfest Prize: FT-100 Commander!



At the Jan club meeting, Bob Ryals KIØGF got approval to purchase a Yaesu FT-100 Commander as our hamfest grand prize for May 6. Better save up the bucks for your raffle tickets. Buy what you can, and remember that even if you don't win it, the \$\$\$ goes to a good cause. The FT-100 is a hot little all-mode radio covering 160m-6m (100W), plus 2m (50W) and 70cm (20W), and has continuous Rx coverage 0.1 - 970 MHz (exc. cellular). You're guaranteed to enjoy it!

Other Upcoming Hamfests

- **Feb 20:** Aurora Repeater Assn Hamfest, 0800 - 1400, Adams County Fairgrounds, \$3 admission, talk-in on 147.15+, forums, prizes, food. Contact Wayne NØPOH 303-699-6335, nrclog@aol.com, www.qsl.net/n0ara/
- **Mar 11:** Denver Radio League Hamfest, Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, Castle Rock. Contact Chris KBØYRZ, kb0yrz@yahoo.com.
- **Apr 1:** Longmont ARC Hamfest, 0800, Boulder Co. Fairgrounds, talk-in 147.27+, 156.52, food, prizes, VE testing, Contact WØHCH, 303-678-1525, jcdavis@ball.com, www.qsl.net/larc/
- **May 6:** PPRAA Hamfest, COS, 0800 - 1400, Lewis-Palmer High School, Monument, \$4 admission, talk-in on 146.97 or 146.52, forums, prizes, food, VE testing. Contact Bob Ryals KIØGF, 719-265-9950, rryals@pcsys.net.
- **Aug 25-27:** Mountain ARC Campfest, Woodland Park. Contact Wes Wilson KØHBZ, 719-687-8758, wlw@prodigy.net. www.qsl.net/nx0g/

Miscellaneous

Aaron KD6FLM is looking for an inexpensive straight key. If you have one sitting around, Aaron would like to buy one. 282-9715 home or 491-7322 work.

Next CCARC Meeting

The Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs is getting ready for its next meeting on Mar 25, and it's an important one. Besides officer elections, the top agenda item is to elect a new frequency coordinator for Colorado. After a very long time, Whit Brown WBØCJX is stepping down. The CCARC is a club whose members are other clubs. The PPRAA has been a CCARC member for many years. Our rep to the CCARC is Ron Deutsch NKØP, and he or another person will carry our vote for the club. The meeting, hosted by the Groundstar Repeater Group, will be on Mar 25 at 1 pm at the Consolidated Mutual Water facilities, 12700 W. 27th Ave, Lakewood. Details are available on Tony Ferris' web page at www.qsl.net/na0us/ccarc_meeting.html

The CCARC has been around for many years (its constitution doesn't show a date) and was formed to coordinate club activities in CO, activities such as a state convention. However, in recent past most of its activities have been oriented to frequency coordination, and very little with specific club activities.

Results of Home Brew Night 2000

Wow! I can't remember when we have had so much interest in Home-Brew Night! Not only did we have a large number of projects, I think the membership turnout was the largest in quite some time. It was great fun to see what folks in the club have built. Did you notice the young folks who entered projects? I thought so. Who says ham radio is just a bunch of old fogies? Next year we may consider a category for those who are under 18 just to see what happens. Unfortunately I didn't write down everyone who entered. Heck, I was busy just trying to figure out who won what. If you have ideas for a better way to do this please let me or some other board member know. Projects ranged from the very professional to the very beginners. Of course we all started out as beginners and it's how we've all learned over the years. Below are the winners in each category and what they built.

AMATEUR CATEGORY: 1st place NKØP – Norcal NC-20 QRP transceiver; 2nd place KCØNC – Foxhunt transmitter; 3rd place KCØGLQ – Home-made key.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY: 1st place WA2OOD – Home-brew version of the NE 40-40 QRP transceiver; 2nd place KD6FLM – Copper pipe J-pole antenna for 2m; 3rd place KØSU – 436 MHz antenna from PVC and wire. (Cont'd on page12)

Pikes Peak Region Ham Event Calendar

February / March 2000						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Freezoree Hamfest Mtg
6	7	8 Ham Class	9 Club Mtg	10 Ham Class & VE Session	11	12 VE Testing
13 Fox Hunt Board Mtg	14 Valentine's Day	15 Ham Class	16 MARC Mtg	17 RACES Mtg Ham Class	18	19
20 ARA Hamfest CSARA Mtg	21 President's Day	22 Ham Class	23	24 Ham Class	25	26
27	28	29 Ham Class	1	2 Ham Class	3	4 MARC VE Testing Hamfest Mtg
5 PPFMA Annual Mtg	6	7 Ham Class	8 Club Mtg	9 Ham Class & VE Session	10	11 DRL Hamfest Castle Rock
12 Fox Hunt	13 Board Mtg	14	15 MARC Mtg	16 RACES Mtg	17 St. Patty's Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 CCARC Mtg
6	27	28	29	30	31	

Future Dates to Note: Skywarn Training in March; PPRAA Swapfest May 6; Field Day June 24-5

Membership Application for the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc. P.O. Box 16521, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-6521			
Date: _____	New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	In which activities would you like to participate?	
Name: _____		Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrations <input type="checkbox"/> Nets or round tables <input type="checkbox"/> Organize activities <input type="checkbox"/> Teach ham classes <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address: _____			
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			
Call: _____ Class: N T + G A E Phone: _____		Full Member \$15: <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership \$18: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 \$10: <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 Family \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> Ø-Beat Only \$12: <input type="checkbox"/> ARRL Dues Incl'd \$34: <input type="checkbox"/> Donation to Club: _____	
Mbr of ARRL? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail: _____			
Additional Family Members to Join/Renew:			
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____		Total Enclosed: _____	
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____ ARRL? _____			
Would you like to receive Ø-Beat electronically via e-mail in PDF format instead of a printed copy? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Circle your interests <input type="checkbox"/> HF <input type="checkbox"/> V/UHF <input type="checkbox"/> FM <input type="checkbox"/> SSB <input type="checkbox"/> Digital <input type="checkbox"/> DX <input type="checkbox"/> Contests <input type="checkbox"/> Technical <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware Other _____			
Renew your ARRL membership through the PPRAA! Send your ARRL renewal form and your check for the amount due to the ARRL to the PPRAA. Make the check payable to the PPRAA. The PPRAA will forward your renewal form to the ARRL. The PPRAA keeps \$2 as a donation or commission, and pays the difference to the ARRL.			
New and renewing members must submit a completed application form along with your check to the Treasurer. Please Type or Print Clearly!			

(cont'd from page 8) **UGLY CATEGORY:** KBØUWN – 13.8V power supply.

I hope you had as much fun as I did seeing all of the projects. It certainly gave me some ideas of things I'd like to build. Of course I have a preference for antennas, so you can probably guess what my projects for next year will be. Hopefully you'll build something this year and we'll have even more projects entered next year. *de KØSU*

APRS Quietly Getting Busy in Region

APRS, or Automatic Position Reporting System, is growing in COS. Tune your packet rig to 144.39 MHz and you'll see familiar calls: NØENN, KC5LXC, NØKIB, NØKIC, to name a few. The shareware software decodes the packets from these stations and plots the locations on a map on your PC. You can also send kybd-to-kybd messages and bulletins. WX reporting is another big part of APRS. It can be used to transmit information besides position data. Barometric pressure, wind speed & direction, temperature and rain can be included in the unconnected packets. APRS displays the info as text or plots info on the screen. On the map, the WX stations appear as blue circles with lines indicating wind direction. The built-in WX function decodes the WX info transmitted by equipment from manufacturers such as Peet Bros or Davis. In NJ, NWS is making use of an APRS feature which highlights a county under a watch or warning. Counties colored yellow indicate a Skywarn activation, orange a WX watch, and red a warning.

Haze NØKIB and John NØKIC have been experimenting with a WX APRS station on Palmer Divide, about 10 mi E of Monument. Hardware issues notwithstanding, the goal is to get an automatic APRS WX reporting station on the air. Once the data's out there, it can be forwarded to NWS PUB. Future plans call for a mountaintop APRS digi which can be heard by other APRS stations, such as one at NWS PUB. This WX info would be available to all hams with packet, and can be useful for ARES and RACES. John's always been interested in weather, and has been working with packet for over a decade, so this seems quite a natural fit. Haze hosts the station at his

QTH; John has remote access to it. The station is small but capable, with a 15W transmitter, a KPC-3+ TNC and a Diamond antenna. In an emergency, some of Haze's family know how to turn off power to the station.

Join in on APRS, but do it cautiously. APRS is packet radio, but not like the typical PBBS operation. There you connect to a PBBS to retrieve a bulletin, then disconnect, independent of all other packeteers. Not so with APRS. Even though packets are unconnected, there is a dependency among the system of relays and digipeaters on APRS, and prior coordination is essential to avoid disrupting the network. One problem is not knowing your lat/long. In satellite comm, west longitude is negative, so we in COS are at negative 104 degrees, not positive 104 degrees. What difference does that make? A station could receive your data and re-center its map to an incorrect location -- oops! -- the map is centered on China! Please ask for help if you have questions. You can contact pretty much any of the folks mentioned in the first paragraph. Back at the Nov PPRAA meeting Phil and John brought in a working APRS station for demo. Hmmm, this may be a good subject for a forum at our upcoming hamfest!

APRS in COS is on 144.39 MHz. You need only a packet station to monitor the activity, but you need the APRS software to see the map displays. APRS is shareware, but you can't save your configuration unless you register the software. APRS for Windows is \$60; APRS for DOS is a little less. APRS+SA uses Street Atlas maps but requires Win95 or later.

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First Class Mail

To: